

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - January 2008

Location	Date/Time	Deaths & Injuries	Property & Crop Dmg	Event Type and Details
LAKE MICHIGAN				
NORTH PT LT TO WIND PT WI COUNTY --- 1.0 NNE CUDAHY [42.96, -87.84]				
	01/07/08 15:45 CST	0		Marine Thunderstorm Wind (EG 40 kt)
	01/07/08 15:45 CST	0		Source: Public
Strong thunderstorm wind gusts occurred along the lakeshore east of Cudahy and over the nearshore waters based on public reports. Some tree branches were knocked down by the winds. Further inland, a measured wind gust of 41 knots was recorded at Milwaukee Mitchell Field.				
Unseasonable thunderstorms with strong winds moved northeast through Milwaukee County and out over the nearshore waters of Lake Michigan. These storms were related to other severe storms that spun up two tornadoes in Walworth and Kenosha Counties and funnel clouds over Racine County in southeast Wisconsin on January 7th.				
WISCONSIN, Southeast				
(WI-Z046) MARQUETTE, (WI-Z047) GREEN LAKE, (WI-Z051) FOND DU LAC, (WI-Z052) SHEBOYGAN, (WI-Z056) SAUK, (WI-Z057) COLUMBIA, (WI-Z058) DODGE, (WI-Z059) WASHINGTON, (WI-Z060) OZAUKEE, (WI-Z062) IOWA, (WI-Z063) DANE, (WI-Z064) JEFFERSON, (WI-Z065) WAUKESHA, (WI-Z066) MILWAUKEE, (WI-Z067) LAFAYETTE, (WI-Z068) GREEN, (WI-Z069) ROCK, (WI-Z070) WALWORTH, (WI-Z071) RACINE, (WI-Z072) KENOSHA				
	01/05/08 20:00 CST	0		Dense Fog
	01/07/08 08:00 CST	0		
Dense fog covered most of south-central and southeast Wisconsin from Saturday evening through about sunrise of Monday with visibilities of 1/8 to 1/4 mile. At times Sunday afternoon visibilities were reduced to less than 25 yards due to the cooling effect of melting snow. This resulted in a series of multiple-vehicle accidents along roughly a 5-mile stretch on Interstate 90/39 east and southeast of the Madison (Dane Co.) area. Law enforcement officials cited excessive speed for weather conditions as the cause of the accidents. One fatality (indirect death) was reported about 1 mile south of the Interstate 90/39 and STH 12/18 intersection at about 1420 CST, and another fatality (indirect death) in a crash on Interstate 90/39 in the Civil Town of Blooming Grove at milemarker 146 at about 1516 CST. Altogether, about 100 vehicles were involved and about 50 people were treated at area hospitals for injuries (indirect). Numerous airline flights were canceled at airports throughout south-central and southeast Wisconsin during the 3-day period of dense fog. Dozens of other vehicle accidents occurred in other counties as well. Meteorologically, the dense fog resulted from an influx of moist, mild air on south winds that substantially melted an existing snowcover. At Milwaukee Mitchell Field, the daily max/min temperatures for the 3 days were 41/25, 52/39, and 63/38, with the snowcover melting from 5 inches to a trace. At Madison Truax Field, the daily max/min temperatures for the 3 days were 39/34, 47/37, and 50/34, with the snowcover melting from 5 inches to 3 inches. The 63 registered at Milwaukee became a new daily record and an all-time January record max temperature for that location.				
(WI-Z046) MARQUETTE, (WI-Z047) GREEN LAKE, (WI-Z051) FOND DU LAC, (WI-Z056) SAUK, (WI-Z057) COLUMBIA, (WI-Z058) DODGE, (WI-Z062) IOWA, (WI-Z063) DANE, (WI-Z064) JEFFERSON, (WI-Z067) LAFAYETTE, (WI-Z068) GREEN, (WI-Z069) ROCK				
	01/07/08 10:00 CST	0		Dense Fog
	01/08/08 10:00 CST	0		
Dense fog blanketed south-central east to a Fond du Lac to Janesville line with visibilities reduced to 1/8 to 1/4 mile. Numerous airline flights were delayed or canceled. A couple multiple-vehicle accidents were noted by the media in the Madison metro area. The dense fog resulted from leftover mild air and snow melt along with light winds.				
DANE COUNTY --- 4.0 SW MIDDLETON [43.06, -89.56]				
	01/07/08 10:30 CST	0		Hail (0.75 in)
	01/07/08 10:30 CST	0		Source: Amateur Radio
WALWORTH COUNTY --- 3.0 E SHARON [42.50, -88.67]				
	01/07/08 15:45 CST	0		Thunderstorm Wind (EG 56 kt)
	01/07/08 15:45 CST	0		Source: NWS Storm Survey
A few large trees were uprooted or damaged east/southeast of Sharon along the state line. This damage was produced by the same supercell that spun up a tornado northeast of Pell Lake in southeast Walworth County.				
WALWORTH COUNTY --- ZENDA [42.52, -88.48]				
	01/07/08 16:00 CST	0		Hail (0.75 in)
	01/07/08 16:00 CST	0		Source: Public

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - January 2008

Location	Date/Time	Deaths & Injuries	Property & Crop Dmg	Event Type and Details
WALWORTH COUNTY --- 2.3 NE PELL LAKE [42.55, -88.33], 3.0 N GENOA CITY VINCENT A [42.56, -88.31]				
	01/07/08 16:02 CST		0.10M	Tornado (EF1, L: 1.75 mi , W: 100 yd)
	01/07/08 16:04 CST		0	Source: Trained Spotter
This tornado inflicted minor damage on 3 structures and moderate damage on 2 structures in the County of Walworth (homes/pole sheds/barn), and uprooted or damaged a couple dozen trees. It spun up very near a drainage ditch/creek just west of West Court/Center Drive which which branches west from CTH U. This tornado crossed into Kenosha County about 0.4 mile north of where CTH U in Walworth County crosses the county line and becomes CTH F in Walworth County. It continued for several miles in western Kenosha County. The average path width was about 50 yards in Walworth County. The winds were estimated at 93 mph (DI 1 - SBO, DOD 5). The specific starting location in Walworth County was 42.54884,-88.33343, and the ending location in Walworth County was 42.56342,-88.30533. Refer to the western Kenosha County tornado event to see a map plot of the entire tornado path.				
KENOSHA COUNTY --- 1.0 NNW POWERS LAKE [42.56, -88.31], 1.6 NNW PADDOCK LAKE [42.60, -88.14]				
	01/07/08 16:04 CST		13.71M	Tornado (EF3, L: 9.03 mi , W: 200 yd)
	01/07/08 16:17 CST	15	0	Source: Trained Spotter
This tornado in western Kenosha County was a continuation of the tornado that spun up 2.27 miles NE of Pell Lake in southeastern Walworth County. It crossed into Kenosha County about 0.4 mile north of where CTH U in Walworth County crosses the county line and becomes CTH F in Walworth County. The tornado continued northeast to just east of the intersection of STH 50 and CTH O, crossed STH 83 just north of 51st Street just north of New Munster Creek, passed through the Village of Wheatland, turned more east and crossed 308th Ave. just north of Peterson Creek, and then dissipated near a pond between CTH PH and 41st Street (Town Rd). Fifteen people in the Civil Town of Wheatland sustained minor injuries. Also in the Civil Town of Wheatland, 7 homes were affected, 25 sustained minor damage, 27 had major damage, and 25 were destroyed. In the Civil Town of Brighton, 10 homes were affected, 3 had minor damage, 3 had major damage, and 4 were destroyed. About 160 people were homeless due to residential damage. This tornado traveled over frozen ponds and creeks, as well as snow piles leftover from recent snowmelt. Average path width was about 100 yards. The wind speed was estimated at 150 to 160 mph (DI 2 - FR12, DOD 8). For a couple homes, the visual damage suggested an EF4 rating, however insufficient anchoring allowed these structures to fail at a lower wind speed. Additionally, other nearby damage indicators didn't support an EF4 rating. The specific starting location in Kenosha County was 42.556342,-88.30533, and the ending location was 42.60061,-88.13524. For plotting purposes, here are a couple mid-point locations of this tornado's path: crossing of STH 83 - 42.59297, -88.22230, and the crossing of CTH B - 42.59756, -88.15928.				
RACINE COUNTY --- BURLINGTON [42.67, -88.27]				
	01/07/08 16:08 CST		0	Hail (0.75 in)
	01/07/08 16:08 CST		0	Source: Public
KENOSHA COUNTY --- 2.5 SE SOMERS [42.62, -87.87], 3.6 N DOWNTOWN KENOSHA [42.63, -87.82]				
	01/07/08 16:39 CST		7.93M	Tornado (EF1, L: 2.48 mi , W: 75 yd)
	01/07/08 16:43 CST		0	Source: Law Enforcement
This tornado was the 2nd of two tornadoes to affect southeastern Wisconsin on January 7th. It spun up near the intersection of CTH L (18th St.) and 47th Ave. and moved east/northeast through the northern reaches of the city of Kenosha, and dissipated just north of Carthage College and just short of Lake Michigan. In the Civil Town of Somers it resulted in minor damage to 2 homes, and major damage to one home. In the City of Kenosha, it affected one home, inflicted minor damage to 21 homes, inflicted major damage to 6 homes, and destroyed 5 homes. Additionally, it destroyed one church in the City of Kenosha. Several power-lines were toppled and there were transformer explosions. Dozens of trees were damaged or uprooted. Average path width was about 50 yards. The maximum winds were estimated at around 95 mph (DI 27 - TH, DOD 3). This tornado was photographed and video taped. The specific starting location was 42.62399,-87.86591, and the ending location was 42.63127,-87.81820.				
RACINE COUNTY --- 2.0 SW STURTEVANT [42.68, -87.93]				
	01/07/08 16:41 CST		0	Funnel Cloud
	01/07/08 16:41 CST		0	Source: Trained Spotter
RACINE COUNTY --- 1.0 SW STURTEVANT [42.69, -87.91]				
	01/07/08 16:42 CST		0	Funnel Cloud
	01/07/08 16:42 CST		0	Source: Trained Spotter
RACINE COUNTY --- 0.5 SSW STURTEVANT [42.69, -87.90]				
	01/07/08 16:43 CST		0	Funnel Cloud
	01/07/08 16:43 CST		0	Source: Trained Spotter
RACINE COUNTY --- STURTEVANT [42.70, -87.90]				
	01/07/08 16:44 CST		0	Funnel Cloud
	01/07/08 16:44 CST		0	Source: Trained Spotter

Very rare, mid-winter, severe storms affected parts of south-central and southeast Wisconsin on January 7th - in the form of two

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - January 2008

Location	Date/Time	Deaths & Injuries	Property & Crop Dmg	Event Type and Details
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tornadoes and scattered, large, hailstones, and downburst winds. The last time a tornado occurred in January in Wisconsin was on the 24th in 1967 in Green and Rock Counties (25-mile track). On January 7th, a low pressure moved northeast through western Wisconsin, allowing a warm front to push through southern Wisconsin. Temperatures rose into the lower to mid 60s over southeast Wisconsin with surface dewpoints peaking in the mid to upper 50s, resulting in moderate amounts of instability. Strong, veering winds from the surface to the jet stream level generated sufficient wind shear that supported rotating updrafts in scattered supercell thunderstorms over southeast Wisconsin. A supercell thunderstorm, that had spun up a tornado in northeastern Illinois previously, then crossed the state line into south-central Walworth County (southeast of the city of Walworth) where it intensified and eventually spun up a tornado near Pell Lake that traveled into western Kenosha County. Another supercell spun up a tornado over the northern reaches of the city of Kenosha. Other scattered thunderstorms on this day across south-central and southeast Wisconsin dumped large hail up to 3/4 inch in diameter.

(WI-Z046) MARQUETTE, (WI-Z047) GREEN LAKE, (WI-Z056) SAUK, (WI-Z057) COLUMBIA, (WI-Z062) IOWA, (WI-Z063) DANE, (WI-Z067) LAFAYETTE	01/16/08 22:00 CST	0	0	Winter Weather
	01/17/08 15:30 CST	0	0	

Snow accumulations of 3 to 6.5 inches affected south-central Wisconsin west of a line from Berlin to Columbus to Madison to Darlington. Dozens of vehicle accidents were noted by the media. Several airline flights at Madison Truax Field were delayed. This was a long-duration snowfall that didn't meet heavy snow criteria. Snow accumulations included 6.5" at Portage, 6" north of Oxford, 5" in Green Lake, Baraboo, Darlington, and about 4.5 inches near Mineral Point and DeForest. The responsible low pressure moved northeast through south-central Wisconsin.

(WI-Z046) MARQUETTE, (WI-Z047) GREEN LAKE, (WI-Z051) FOND DU LAC, (WI-Z052) SHEBOYGAN, (WI-Z056) SAUK, (WI-Z057) COLUMBIA, (WI-Z058) DODGE, (WI-Z059) WASHINGTON, (WI-Z060) OZAUKEE, (WI-Z062) IOWA, (WI-Z063) DANE, (WI-Z064) JEFFERSON, (WI-Z065) WAUKESHA, (WI-Z066) MILWAUKEE, (WI-Z067) LAFAYETTE, (WI-Z068) GREEN, (WI-Z069) ROCK, (WI-Z070) WALWORTH, (WI-Z071) RACINE, (WI-Z072) KENOSHA	01/19/08 00:00 CST	0	0	Cold/Wind Chill
	01/20/08 12:00 CST	0	0	

Very cold air with temperatures of -5F to +5F combined with northwest winds of 15 to 25 mph generated low wind chill values of -20F to -30 F across south-central and southeast Wisconsin. The cold and low wind chills were a contributing factor in the indirect death of a person in Cudahy (Milwaukee Co.).

(WI-Z072) KENOSHA	01/25/08 00:00 CST	1	0	Cold/Wind Chill
	01/25/08 09:00 CST		0	

Very cold air settled in over southeastern Wisconsin on January 25th and was a significant factor in the death of a 44-year-old woman in the City of Kenosha. She died from exposure after her vehicle struck a tree. The low temperature in Kenosha was -6F to -7F and maximum temperatures in the afternoon only reached up to around +10F.

Direct Fatalities: F44VE

(WI-Z057) COLUMBIA, (WI-Z063) DANE, (WI-Z064) JEFFERSON, (WI-Z068) GREEN, (WI-Z069) ROCK, (WI-Z070) WALWORTH	01/21/08 06:00 CST	0	0	Heavy Snow
	01/22/08 05:00 CST		0	

Snow accumulations of 6 to 10 inches occurred over south-central Wisconsin during a 22-24 hour period. The snow was dry with snow to water ratios of twenty to one to thirty-five to one. Dozens of vehicle accidents were noted by the media. Maximum snow accumulations included 10.2" in Sun Prairie, an estimated 9 to 10" in southeast Columbia County, 9" in Whitewater and 9NW Beloit, 8.5" just southwest of Palmyra, and an estimated 8" in northern Green County.

(WI-Z058) DODGE, (WI-Z059) WASHINGTON, (WI-Z060) OZAUKEE, (WI-Z065) WAUKESHA, (WI-Z066) MILWAUKEE	01/21/08 07:00 CST	0	0	Heavy Snow
	01/22/08 06:00 CST		0	

Snow accumulations of 8 to 14 inches fell over southeast Wisconsin during a 22-24 hour period. The snow was dry with snow to water ratios of twenty to one to thirty-five to one. Dozens of vehicle accidents were noted by the media. Maximum snow accumulations included 14.2" at 2N Saukville, 13" in Jackson, 12" in Juneau, an estimated 10" in northeastern Waukesha County, and 11" in Brown Deer.

(WI-Z051) FOND DU LAC, (WI-Z052) SHEBOYGAN	01/21/08 10:00 CST	0	0	Heavy Snow
	01/22/08 06:00 CST		0	

Snow accumulations of 8 to over 12 inches fell over the far southern parts of the counties of Fond du Lac and Sheboygan in east-central

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - January 2008

Location	Date/Time	Deaths & Injuries	Property & Crop Dmg	Event Type and Details
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Wisconsin during a 22-24 hour period. The snow was dry with snow to water ratios of twenty to one to thirty-five to one. A few vehicle accidents were noted by the media. Maximum snow accumulations included 12.6" at Random Lake and 8" about 5 miles west (Ashford) of Cambellsport.

(WI-Z046) MARQUETTE, (WI-Z047) GREEN LAKE, (WI-Z056) SAUK, (WI-Z062) IOWA, (WI-Z067) LAFAYETTE, (WI-Z071) RACINE, (WI-Z072) KENOSHA	01/21/08 06:00 CST	0	0	Winter Weather
	01/22/08 06:00 CST	0	0	

Snow accumulations of 5 to 8 inches were reported in a 22-24 hour period in the counties of Marquette, Green Lake, Sauk, Iowa, Lafayette, Racine, and Kenosha. The areas that received 8 inches were small, therefore this event was not classified as a heavy snow event. The snow was dry with snow to water ratios of twenty to one to thirty-five to one. Dozens of vehicle accidents were noted by the media. Maximum snow accumulations included 8 inches at La Valle and South Wayne, 7" in Berlin and Downtown Racine, and about 5 inches across far northern Kenosha County.

(WI-Z056) SAUK, (WI-Z057) COLUMBIA, (WI-Z062) IOWA, (WI-Z063) DANE, (WI-Z067) LAFAYETTE, (WI-Z068) GREEN, (WI-Z069) ROCK	01/29/08 12:00 CST	0	0	Winter Storm
	01/30/08 02:00 CST	0	0	

A powerful winter storm raked south-central and southeast Wisconsin during the afternoon hours of January 29th into the pre-dawn hours of January 30th. The precipitation started off as rain and thunderstorms then changed to sleet and freezing rain which then changed to snow and blowing snow with plunging temperatures. Peak sustained northwest winds were on the order of 22 to 28 knots (25 to 32 mph) with peak gusts of 34 to 43 knots (39 to 49 mph). Visibilities were occasionally reduced to 1/4 to 1/2 mile in open areas. Dozens of vehicle accidents and slide-offs were noted by the media due to very slippery roads. Afternoon temperatures in the mid 30s to lower 40s quickly dropped through the 20s into the teens and then into the single digits by the evening hours, and eventually down to the -4F to -11F by the pre-dawn hours of the 30th. Although new snow amounts were only 1 to 3 inches, County Emergency Management Directors noted that this event was perceived as a winter storm due to the combination of thunderstorms, freezing rain, sleet, snow, blowing snow, strong winds, poor visibilities, and fast-falling temperatures. Synoptically, a strong low pressure moved northeast through Minnesota while a strong cold front swept southeast through Wisconsin. Another low pressure developed along the cold front while it was over northern Illinois, which led to a tightening pressure gradient and stronger winds over southern Wisconsin.

(WI-Z046) MARQUETTE, (WI-Z047) GREEN LAKE, (WI-Z051) FOND DU LAC, (WI-Z052) SHEBOYGAN, (WI-Z058) DODGE, (WI-Z059) WASHINGTON, (WI-Z060) OZAUKEE, (WI-Z064) JEFFERSON, (WI-Z065) WAUKESHA, (WI-Z066) MILWAUKEE, (WI-Z070) WALWORTH, (WI-Z071) RACINE, (WI-Z072) KENOSHA	01/29/08 15:00 CST	0	0	Winter Storm
	01/30/08 04:00 CST	0	0	

A powerful winter storm raked south-central and southeast Wisconsin during the afternoon hours of January 29th into the pre-dawn hours of January 30th. The precipitation started off as rain and thunderstorms but then changed to freezing rain and sleet which then changed to snow and blowing snow with plunging temperatures. Peak sustained northwest winds were on the order of 26 to 33 knots (30 to 38 mph) with peak gusts of 39 to 49 knots (45 to 56 mph). There was one isolated peak gust of 54 knots (62 mph) at a Wisconsin DOT site on Interstate 94 west of the City of Racine. Visibilities were occasionally reduced to 1/4 to 1/2 mile in open areas. Dozens of vehicle accidents and slide-offs were noted by the media due to very slippery roads. Afternoon temperatures in the mid 30s to lower 40s quickly dropped through the 20s into the teens and then into the single digits by the evening hours, and eventually down to the -4F to -8F by the pre-dawn hours of the 30th. Although new snow amounts were only 1 to 3 inches, County Emergency Management Directors noted that this event was perceived as a winter storm due to the combination of thunderstorms, freezing rain, sleet, snow, blowing snow, strong winds, poor visibilities, and fast-falling temperatures. Synoptically, a strong low pressure moved northeast through Minnesota while a strong cold front swept southeast through Wisconsin. Another low pressure developed along the cold front while it was over northern Illinois, which led to a tightening pressure gradient and stronger winds over southern Wisconsin.

(WI-Z046) MARQUETTE, (WI-Z047) GREEN LAKE, (WI-Z051) FOND DU LAC, (WI-Z052) SHEBOYGAN, (WI-Z056) SAUK, (WI-Z057) COLUMBIA, (WI-Z058) DODGE, (WI-Z060) OZAUKEE, (WI-Z062) IOWA	01/30/08 02:00 CST	0	0	Extreme Cold/Wind Chill
	01/30/08 09:30 CST	0	0	

In the wake of a powerful winter storm, strong northwest winds and bitter cold air combined to generate very low wind chill values across parts of south-central and southeast Wisconsin. Air temperatures were in the -4F to -11F range and northwest winds were on the order of 13 to 20 knots (15 to 23 mph) with peak gusts of 22 to 30 knots (25 to 35 mph). Wind chill values dropped to -35F to -39F for 3 hours or more. Synoptically, a strong low pressure moved northeast through Minnesota while a strong cold front swept southeast through Wisconsin on the 29th. Another low pressure developed along the cold front while it was over northern Illinois on the 30th, which led to a tightening pressure gradient and stronger winds over southern Wisconsin.

(WI-Z063) DANE, (WI-Z064) JEFFERSON, (WI-Z065) WAUKESHA, (WI-Z066) MILWAUKEE, (WI-Z067) LAFAYETTE, (WI-Z068) GREEN, (WI-Z069) ROCK, (WI-Z070) WALWORTH, (WI-Z071) RACINE, (WI-Z072) KENOSHA				
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Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - January 2008

Location	Date/Time	Deaths & Injuries	Property & Crop Dmg	Event Type and Details
	01/30/08 02:00 CST		0	Cold/Wind Chill
	01/30/08 12:00 CST		0	

In the wake of a powerful winter storm, strong northwest winds and bitter cold air combined to generate low wind chill values across parts of south-central and southeast Wisconsin. Air temperatures were in the -3F to -8F range and northwest winds were on the order of 10 to 18 knots (12 to 21 mph) with peak gusts of 20 to 27 knots (23 to 31 mph). Wind chill values dropped to -28F to -35F for 3 hours or more. However, Monroe in Green County did have a low chill value of -37 for one hour. Synoptically, a strong low pressure moved northeast through Minnesota while a strong cold front swept southeast through Wisconsin on the 29th. Another low pressure developed along the cold front while it was over northern Illinois on the 30th, which led to a tightening pressure gradient and stronger winds over southern Wisconsin.

(WI-Z066) MILWAUKEE, (WI-Z070) WALWORTH, (WI-Z071) RACINE, (WI-Z072) KENOSHA

01/31/08 16:00 CST	0	Winter Storm
01/31/08 23:59 CST	0	

A winter storm with heavy snow and gusty east to northeast winds to 25 to 30 mph affected southeast Wisconsin during the overnight hours. Visibilities were occasionally reduced to 1/4 to 1/2 in open areas where blowing and drifting affected travel. Specific snow amounts include 12.0" in the city of Racine, 10 to 11" in the city of Kenosha, 9.5" in the city of Pleasant Prairie, 8" in Caledonia, Union Grove, and Paddock Lake, and around 7" in the southeast third of Walworth County. Although this storm started in the afternoon hours of January 31st, it reached verification times and ending times on February 1st, so please refer to that February 1st event as well. Lesser snow accumulations of 3 to 5" affected parts of the counties of Sheboygan, Washington, Ozaukee, Jefferson, Waukesha, and Rock.

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - February 2008

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WISCONSIN, Southeast

(WI-Z066) MILWAUKEE, (WI-Z070) WALWORTH, (WI-Z071) RACINE, (WI-Z072) KENOSHA

02/01/08 00:00 CST

0

Winter Storm

02/01/08 08:45 CST

0

This winter storm started during the afternoon hours on January 31st, but continued into the early morning hours of February 1st. Heavy snow accumulations and gusty east to northeast winds to 25 to 30 mph affected southeast Wisconsin during the overnight hours. Visibilities were occasionally reduced to 1/4 to 1/2 in open areas where blowing and drifting affected travel. Specific snow amounts include 12.0" in the city of Racine, 10 to 11" in the city of Kenosha, 9.5" in the city of Pleasant Prairie, 8" in Caledonia, Union Grove, and Paddock Lake, and around 7" in the southeast third of Walworth County. Lesser snow accumulations of 3 to 5" affected parts of the counties of Sheboygan, Washington, Ozaukee, Jefferson, Waukesha, and Rock. Although this storm started in the afternoon hours of January 31st, it reached verification times and ending times on February 1st, so please refer to the January 31st event as well. Synoptically, low pressure moved northeast up the Ohio River Valley. Some lake-effect moisture enhancement occurred over southeast Wisconsin thanks to northeast winds in the lower atmosphere.